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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 19 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a press statement issued at Cairo on 16 February 1991 by a meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 153, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amre M. MOUSSA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Press statement issued at Cairo on 16 February 1991 by a meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt

In the context of their national affiliation and their genuine commitment to the covenants governing joint Arab action, principally the Pact of the League of Arab States, the Joint Defence and Economic Co-operation Treaty between the States of the Arab League and the Arab Solidarity Pact of 15 September 1965,

Conscious of their national responsibility in the critical times through which the Arab world is passing,

In their desire to make all possible efforts to heal the rift in the Arab world arising out of the Iraqi occupation of the fraternal State of Kuwait,

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt held a meeting at Cairo on 15 and 16 February 1991.

The Ministers reviewed all aspects of the operations for the liberation of the fraternal State of Kuwait, and they reaffirmed their adherence to the implementation of the resolutions of inter-Arab, Islamic and international legitimacy for the restoration of security and stability in the region, which require:

1. The withdrawal of Iraq without qualifications or conditions from all the territory of the fraternal State of Kuwait.

2. The restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait.

3. Commitment to the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

4. Commitment to the principles of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States.

The Ministers expressed their deep pain and bitter sorrow at the sufferings of innocent members of the Kuwaiti and Iraqi peoples as a result of the continued Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait and of the intransigence of the Iraqi leadership and its refusal to comply with the resolutions of inter-Arab, Islamic and international legitimacy.

The Ministers further gave careful consideration to coordination and cooperation between their countries in all fields, particularly the security, political and economic fields, in the period to follow the liberation of Kuwait and

to the endeavour that they would make to instil a new spirit of solidarity among the Arab States.

In this context, they affirmed the following principles:

1. That reliance should be placed in the purposes and principles of the Pact of the League of Arab States and the Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Treaty between the States of the Arab League.

2. That the concept of Arab national security should be considered in a comprehensive and multidimensional manner, and that the security and stability of their countries should be regarded as an integral part of inter-Arab and international security and stability.

3. That cooperation and coordination among the participating parties and any modality agreed upon in that regard should be open to all Arab countries that might wish to participate, subject to their commitment to the purposes and principles governing such a modality.

4. That the role of the League of Arab States and all the institutions of joint Arab action should be revitalized.

5. That it is essential to bring about a large-scale and tangible upsurge in Arab economic and social development efforts. In this connection, the Ministers appraised the national role being performed by Arab development-finance funds and programmes, both those well established and those newly founded, such as the Gulf Programme to Promote Development Efforts in the Arab World.

6. That there should be respect for the principle of the sovereignty of each Arab State over its natural and economic resources.

The Ministers discussed the question of Palestine and the extent and character of the negative impact made by the Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait on this central issue for the Arab States. In this context, they reaffirmed the following:

1. The continued adherence of their countries to their national and historical commitment to ensuring the inalienable national rights to the Palestinian people, including its right to exercise self-determination and to establish its State on its national soil.

2. The maintenance of their commitment to strive for the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict leading to Israel's full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

They further affirmed the need to oblige Israel to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978), requiring its withdrawal from southern Lebanon. They noted with satisfaction the deployment of Lebanese Army forces in southern Lebanon, affirming the determination of their countries to enable the legitimate Lebanese

authorities to implement all of the provisions of the Taif Charter of National Reconciliation.

The Ministers expressed the desire of their countries that the Middle East region should be made a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons.

The Ministers further agreed that their next meeting would be held, God willing, at Damascus on 5 March 1991.

The Ministers expressed their deep gratitude to the Arab Republic of Egypt, its President, its Government and its people, for their generous hospitality and kind reception and for the exemplary arrangements that had been made for the success of the work of their meeting.